



Centre for Economic Development,  
Transport and the Environment



# **ELY Centre for Southwest Finland**

- Sustainable Growth with Us

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The area of  
Southwestern Finland

Satakunta region

Southwest Finland  
(Varsinais-Suomi region)

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# ELY Centre for Southwest Finland at your service

**The Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland (ELY Centre for Southwest Finland) is a diverse and broad-ranging development and service centre created during the Government's Reform Project for Regional Administration. Our goal is to strengthen well-being in the regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta. Networking with other actors in the region is the starting point for our activities. The best ways to achieve impact and reach targets are good co-operation and effective use of resources.**

Sustainable well-being requires vibrant business and industry, an attractive province and environment as well as satisfied inhabitants. On the other hand, a healthy economy – both public and private – is the foundation for people's well-being and the appeal of the region.

Well-being in Finland, and particularly in the ELY Centre for Southwest Finland's operating area, is strongly based on international trade. It is extremely important to improve the competence, competitiveness and growth of enterprises internationally. Successful enterprises are able to create new jobs and the prosperity needed to implement various well-being services, transport solutions and environmental and sustainable development values in the future.

A healthy economy and well-organised fundamental matters make it easier to focus on other important issues, such as clean nature, a diverse environment and functional transport connections. As a development organisation, the ELY Centre for Southwest Finland does its part to improve the operating preconditions for enterprises by, for example, developing, financing, training and providing a competent labour force, maintaining and developing transport systems, and promoting the preservation of clean nature and a diverse environment.

The ELY Centre for Southwest Finland is involved in many different areas of life. In particular, we are responsible for forecasting constantly changing global challenges and identifying the needs of customers. Our goal is to offer services that meet the needs of a broad customer base in a flexible and cost-effective manner. We keep up with the times and adapt and adjust to changing needs. We are here for our customers and we want to serve you and your organisation. Let's work together to build vibrant regions!

*Welcome to the ELY Centre!*

Pekka Sundman, Director-General





# Impact and efficiency through strategy work

A major share of state funding directed at provincial development is channelled to the region via the ELY Centres. The activities take into consideration the national goals and adapt them to the provincial and local targets. We want to use different financing instruments effectively in the regional development work in Varsinais-Suomi region and some of the work taking place in Satakunta region.

One-quarter of Finland's marine transports move through the ports of Southwest Finland. International transport through the region is vital to business and industry in the area and to foreign trade throughout the country. We improve the safety, condition and functionality of road connections that are essential to business and industry and commuter traffic. One of our main priorities is the improvement of Highway 8, which links cities on the west coast. We are also working with other regional actors to promote the development of rail and air connections in the area.

Managing structural change in the shipbuilding industry is especially pertinent to the regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta. Our innovation activities are decisive in terms of renewing business and industry in the region. For example, we use funding from Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, to finance pioneering research, development and innovation projects. This in turn contributes to supporting growth and well-being.

Regional actors focus on improving the state of the Archipelago Sea and Bothnian Sea and, for example, the continuation of the fishing industry, which simultaneously ensures that domestic fish is available to everyone. In accordance with the Baltic Sea commitments, we are doing our best to ensure that our region takes comprehensive and intensive measures to improve the state of the Archipelago Sea by 2020.



Southwest Finland is the country's leading food production region in many areas of the industry. We want to develop the countryside and support its vitality. In particular, we focus on supporting food safety, local food, bioenergy, rural tourism and water protection to improve the state of the Archipelago Sea. Well-functioning and reasonably priced public transport is a basic requirement. We steer traffic growth towards sustainable means in order to safeguard commuter traffic and prevent congestion and environmental hazards.

Competent and healthy employees are an essential resource in terms of our regional development. We ensure the availability of a competent labour force by guaranteeing diverse employment and cultural activities in our region. We enhance the rate of employment by supporting the growth and internationalisation of enterprises and the renewal of entrepreneurial activities.

The ELY Centre steers the planning of land use in municipalities and advises municipalities in planning-related matters. It is our task to promote the realisation of a sustainable regional and municipal structure in the urban and municipal centres of Southwest Finland.

Positive regional development and vibrant business and industry are reflected in the well-being of the population in the region. For example, measures to increase well-being ensure the integration of young people and immigrants into the community and working life. We finance projects and measures that promote the construction of a healthy, safe and pleasant environment.

## Unit for Strategy and EU-Structural Fund

Strategic planning allows us to improve the impact and efficiency of ELY Centre activities. We use modern and future-oriented information services to monitor changes in the operating environment and support provincial development and decision making. In co-operation with the regional councils, we are taking part in the preparation of a new EU programmes 2014+.

We are also involved in developing and building a common operating culture and work community for the ELY Centre. Making better use of our diverse expertise and combining our competence will increase the impact of our activities.

*Sustainable growth with us!*

Kirsi Kärpijoki, Regional Development Manager  
Unit for Strategy and EU-Structural Fund

# Sustainable well-being – successful enterprises

*Sustainable well-being requires agile and successful enterprises that create jobs and economic success. Profitable business is one of the basic needs of an enterprise, and the ELY Centres support business profitability in situations where enterprises need competent employees or support for start up, development and internationalisation.*

The impact of the export and international trade on well-being in Southwest Finland is greater than in the rest of the country. The global economy is a phenomenon that has proven to be more unpredictable than expected and has a fundamental effect on all activities. Success in the region requires each enterprise to identify and respond to challenges and opportunities. The foundation of our activities is a strong awareness of the strengths, competitiveness and needs of business and industry and the actors in the region. The services provided by the ELY Centre assist in establishing enterprises and developing existing enterprises in addition to improving their competitiveness and innovativeness in a constantly changing world.

The ELY Centre for Southwest Finland's area of responsibility, which covers Economic Development, Employment, Competence and Culture, is wide ranging and, along with enterprise services, offers a diverse range of advisory services and training. We also co-ordinate the Employment and Economic Development Offices in Southwest Finland, ensure the profitability of and preconditions for agriculture, and grant agricultural supports. Following the Reform Project for Regional Administration, our activities expanded to include education, adult education and the construction of educational facilities.



Our ELY Centre combines state and municipal targets and operates as part of the regional network, co-operating actively with stakeholders and customers.

Our activities are governed by the Intra-ministerial Strategy Document that is based on the Government Programme and drawn up for the term of government and by the ELY Centre-specific performance agreements. The focuses of the activities are reviewed annually and adapted quickly to respond to rapidly changing situations. We reinforce sustainable well-being in Southwest Finland in co-operation with our ELY Centre's activities in the Transport and Infrastructure and Environment and Natural Resources areas of responsibility.

Pekka Sundman, Director  
Economic Development, Employment,  
Competence and Culture



**Sustainable well-being requires adaptable and successful enterprises that create jobs and economic success. The ELY Centre supports business profitability in many ways.**

# Vibrant business and industry – the foundation of well-being

## A dynamic countryside

In many ways, Southwest Finland is the bread basket of the country. Our region produces food for the entire country and our production share is significant on a national scale. As a result, production-related cash flows are also the largest in the country. A total of EUR 280 million in different supports are paid to the rural sector in our region, with EU funding accounting for approximately EUR 110 million of this sum. The majority of EU member payments are returned to Finland through agricultural aid schemes.

The task of the ELY Centre for Southwest Finland's Rural and Energy Unit is to implement the EU's Common Rural Development, Agricultural and Fisheries Policies and to handle energy issues. The unit promotes the competitiveness of the farm economy and fishery economy and develops the state of the countryside and environment as well as solutions based on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

## Safeguarding the profitability of agriculture

The tasks of the Agriculture Support Group include the implementation and supervision of EU and national agricultural aid schemes, training and advisory tasks and steering, monitoring and the co-ordination of municipal activities. Further tasks include the Single Payment Scheme, reference quantities for milk and national supports, compensation payments for structural change, training matters related to environmental measures and ewe quotas. Our central target is to safeguard the profitability of agriculture and opportunities to earn a living according to fair principles. Our activities contribute to maintaining and developing quality food production, environmental and animal protection and landscape values. Our key tasks include:

- Supervision of EU and national agricultural supports
- Training and advisory tasks
- Administration of various production rights
- Cross-compliance obligations (good agricultural and environmental conditions and statutory management requirements)
- Steering, supervision and co-ordination of municipal agricultural administration activities



### 2010

- 6,595 working farms in Varsinais-Suomi region
- Total acreage in Varsinais-Suomi region: 294,802 hectares
- 640 professional fishermen in the regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta

## Promoting agri-environmental issues

The tasks of Environmental Issues include measures related to the agri-environmental aid scheme and special environmental support matters. With regard to national forms of aid, we handle greenhouse support and storage aid in the horticultural sector as well as many special supports (including beekeeping support). We also monitor plant and animal health under the direction of the Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira.

The goal of our activities is to promote agri-environmental issues and our most important instrument of implementation in achieving this goal is special agri-environmental support payments. We perform a variety of inspections in order to guarantee food safety and plant health. We supervise organic farming to ensure that the products sold meet the requirements set for organic production. We also contribute to maintaining the preconditions for domestic greenhouse and outdoor vegetable production by implementing the related support schemes. Our key tasks include:

- Processing of special agri-environmental support payments
- Processing of greenhouse support and certain other forms of national aid
- Monitoring of organic production
- Inspections of plant and animal health as directed by Evira
- Issues related to compensation for various types of damage (for example, crop or elk)



## Increasing rural vitality

Rural Development and Financing Services is responsible for the processing of partly EU-funded and national agricultural investment aid, generation change matters and other funding-related issues. Other duties are rural development matters, Leader activities, and renewable energy and energy efficiency. The goal of our activities is to improve the preconditions for and competitiveness of agriculture and horticulture while simultaneously developing the structure in the area. Other targets include promoting the efficiency and quality of agricultural production, developing rural vitality and village activities, and increasing the attractiveness of the countryside. Our key tasks include:

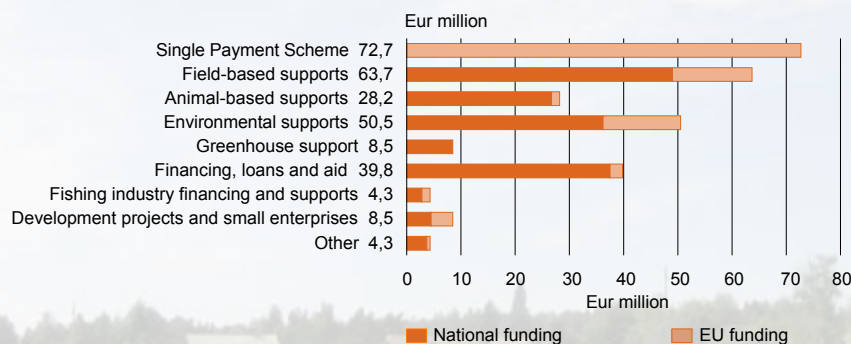
- Financing of partly EU-funded and national agricultural and horticultural investments
- Financing of generation changes on farms
- Project matters related to rural development
- Local action group matters within the Leader programme
- Rural construction steering issues

## Promoting sustainable and diverse use of fish stocks

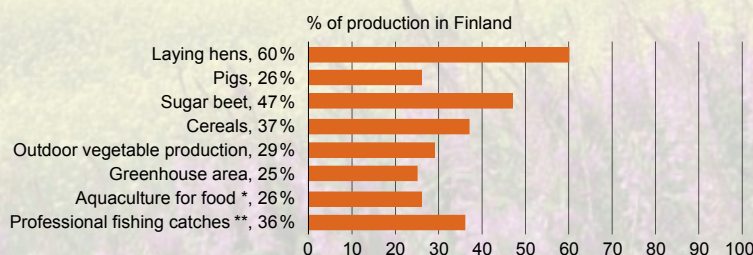
The task of Fisheries Services is to promote entrepreneurial activities and recreational fishing based on the sustainable use of renewable fish stocks. We also monitor the general interests of the fishing industry and provide guidance concerning the management of fishing waters. We are responsible for implementing and monitoring the EU Common Fisheries Policy and implementing the national fisheries policy. Our duties cover the regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta. In terms of social impact, our most important target is the sustainable and diverse use of fish stocks and matters related to the fisheries industry; we work to improve competitiveness and profitability. Recreational fishing is used to produce social and economic benefit and increase people's enjoyment and well-being. Our key tasks include:

- Financing and support issues for the fisheries industry
- Supervision of professional fishing and the fish trade
- Fishing industry register matters
- General monitoring of the fishing industry
- Implementation responsibilities derived from fishing legislation

Agricultural and rural public financing in Southwest Finland: EUR 280.5 million (2010)



Southwest Finland's shares of primary production in certain sectors in Finland, 2009 (\*also incl. Satakunta, \*\*2008)



## Improving training and employment

Preventing unemployment, ensuring the availability of a competent labour force, continuously developing the competence of enterprises' personnel, improving the business skills of corporate management and establishing new enterprises are important issues in terms of the well-being and success of our region. The trade and industry structure in Southwest Finland strongly depends on international customers, and thus also on global business cycles. The ELY Centre's Unit for Employment, Entrepreneurship, Education and Culture meets these challenges with an active labour force policy and a diverse range of advisory, training and financing services in co-operation with the Employment and Economic Development Office network and Turku Region Business Service Center Potkuri. Other duties include steering the activities of the Employment and Economic Development Offices, service development and personnel training matters. With regard to cultural activities and immigration services, we are responsible for regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta.

### Competence development provides a boost for enterprises

The goals of competence development and training services are to ensure the availability of a competent labour force and improve the functionality of the labour markets. The activities strengthen and develop the skills of enterprises and organisations and allow them to respond to changes in working life while promoting coping and well-being at work, increasing entrepreneurship and creating an atmosphere that is favourable to entrepreneurship

- Based on the foresight information collected, we plan labour market policy adult education and guidance training as well as joint purchase training
- We develop the business competence of SMEs
- We provide coaching-style entrepreneurship training

### Services to support employment

The key task involves steering of the TE Offices' operational outcomes, resources and information and providing advice and supervision, as well as developing service processes. A special focus is the financing of services to support employment and the so-called intermediate labour market services.

*The Employment and Economic Development Office (TE Office) serves all jobseekers – those who are working, unemployed or entering working life - when they are applying for a job and in labour exchange ([www.mol.fi](http://www.mol.fi)). In addition to providing information about labour markets, training, occupations and entrepreneurship, the TE Office advises clients in matters related to unemployment benefits. For employer customers, the TE Office's most important task is to provide a labour force in recruiting situations and, if necessary, training to develop the personnel or advisory and training services when reduction of personnel is needed.*





#### Every year in Southwest Finland

- Approximately 80,000 new periods of unemployment begin
- About 40,000 new jobs open up
- About 70% of unemployment periods end after less than 3 months

#### In 2010

- 8,754 people took part in labour market policy adult education
- 7,688 people participated in other labour market policy measures

## Turning immigrants into a regional resource

Immigration services are responsible for the integration of immigrants and for co-ordinating tasks related to good ethnic relations in regions of Satakunta and Varsinais-Suomi. The task of immigration services is, in relation to immigrant integration,

- to develop, co-ordinate and monitor the regional strategy
- to support, advise and pay compensation to municipalities and to assign asylum seekers to specific municipalities
- to plan, procure and monitor integration training to promote good ethnic relations and inter-cultural dialogue
- to promote good ethnic relations and interaction between different cultures

## Quality and cost-effective education and culture

Cultural activities develops the quality and cost-effectiveness of sectors within the scope of the Ministry of Education and Culture in regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta, and participate in regional development as an expert in the field of education and culture administration. Our customers are municipalities, joint municipal authorities, education providers, organisations and the third sector. Our activities emphasise co-operation with the Regional State Administrative Agencies and provinces regarding

- support for and steering of educational institution construction
- development of youth services, sports and physical training services, library services and cultural services
- co-ordination of vocational education in Southwest Finland

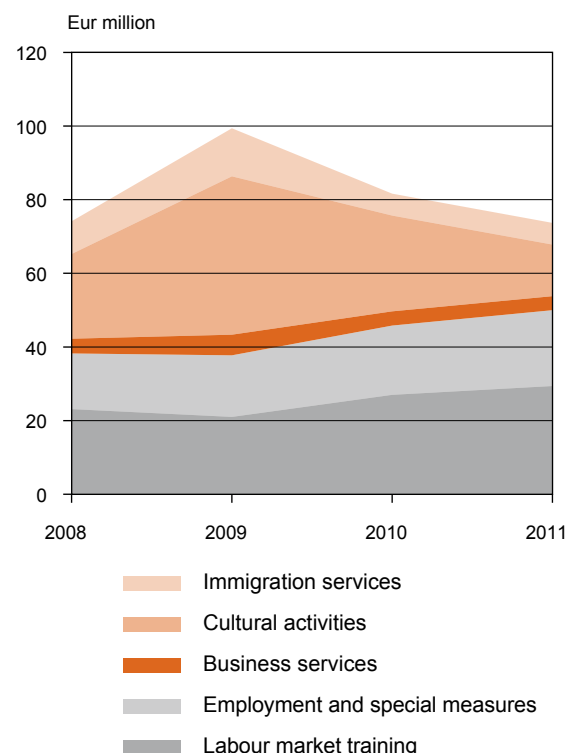
*Immigration services includes the compensation paid to municipalities for the reception of refugees and returnees. The funding of reception centres was transferred to the Finnish Immigration Service (Migri) in 2010. \*) Cultural activities includes state aid to the municipalities for an educational institute, a library and sports venues. \*)*

*Business Services comprise the development of business competence for SMEs, corporate management training programmes and expert services. Employment and special measures includes salary-based financing, including pay supplement and start-up grants as well as special measures, such as funding for vocational guidance, job application coaching and pension statements. Labour market training includes funding for labour market policy adult education and guidance.*

*\*) Applies to regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta*



Financing of employment, entrepreneurship and education and culture



## Financing for enterprise development activities

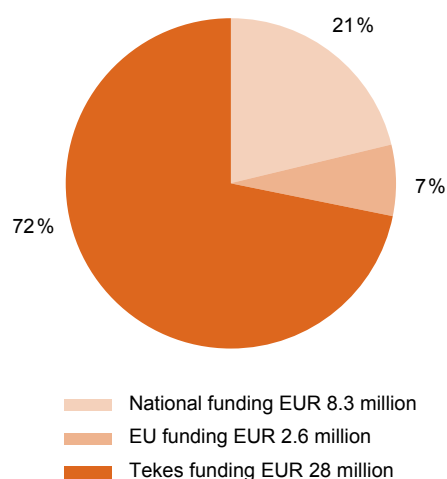
Southwest Finland profiles itself as a region where competitiveness is based on diverse competence, education and innovations. One-tenth of Finnish business and industry is located in Southwest Finland. A special feature of the region is international activities in the maritime, electrical, electronics, mechanical and equipment engineering industries, the pharmaceutical and diagnostics sector and the logistics industry. Special development potential lies in the areas of tourism and cultural services, future research services and well-being concepts.

The ELY Centre for Southwest Finland's Innovations and Financing Unit offers funding and expertise for the development of enterprises and universities. We make financing available by means of the services provided by the ELY Centre and Tekes. Internationalisation Services provides business and industry and enterprises with counselling and coaching through different forms of networking. The Enterprise Europe Network offers enterprises the opportunity for European networking, with the aim of improving customers' international competitiveness and, thus, providing the foundation for growth.

We offer advisory, development and funding services for the internationalisation of businesses and to ensure competitiveness and development, as well as the expertise needed to renew the enterprise base and commercialise research competence.



Enterprise funding 2010



*With the exception of research funding, enterprise funding is intended for partial funding of challenging development projects in companies. The application period is continuous.*

## Other ELY Centre services

### Pay security

Pay security guarantees that employees receive the pay due to them in case of employer bankruptcy or other insolvency. We provide counselling and guidance concerning pay security issues. You can contact pay security if your employer has problems with salary payment.

#### 2010

- EUR 2.2 million in pay security distributed
- 624 new pay security applications
- 470 pay security decisions

### Turku Region Business Center Potkuri

Potkuri is a service interface for regional entrepreneurs that was established by the ELY Centre for Southwest Finland and Turku Region Development Centre. Potkuri provides business counselling for new small entrepreneurs and for SMEs in the different stages of their lifecycle. In addition to business counselling, Potkuri and its partners arrange dozens of information meetings and events for entrepreneurs and people planning to start business activities in the region.

**In 2010, customers of Turku Region Business Center Potkuri established 908 enterprises.**

# Transport strategy meets transport needs

*The competitiveness of business and industry and the sustainable growth of urban areas are key factors in the success of our region. The transport projects selected on the basis of these starting points serve our region as a whole. In co-operation with other provincial and regional actors, the ELY Centre for Southwest Finland has drawn up the Transport Strategy for Southwestern Finland, which outlines and prioritises the most important traffic-related development needs in the region. The strategy was approved in November 2010 by the Regional Boards of Southwest Finland and Satakunta.*



There is widespread general agreement in the regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta that the improvement of Highway 8 between Turku and Pori is the number one priority in our region. This link is the foundation for the transport network in our provinces and the main route along the west coast of Finland. It is essential for international transports. The problems on the road include poor traffic safety and flow. In view of the amount of traffic, the road is narrow and provides little opportunity to pass, which in turn leads to a lot of head-on collisions.

The improvement of Highway 8 would make it easier to predict the transport times for business and industry and improve the flow of public transport, ease congestion during daily commuter traffic, enhance traffic safety and reduce the risk of pollution in groundwater areas.

Smoothly functioning transport chains in business and industry require a review of the entire transport system. This is why the spearhead projects in our region also include the deepening of the sea channel at the Port of Rauma and improvement of the

Kokemäki-Tampere railway line. We also have to ensure good passenger traffic connections to the rest of Finland and to other countries as well as fast links between urban areas that connect these areas into a more extensive development region. Traffic growth has to be directed towards more sustainable methods in order to prevent congestion and environmental hazards. Support of this development will create even stronger employment and market areas.

In addition to regional development, our task is to ensure the daily trafficability and condition of the roads. The decrease in available funding requires strict prioritisation. We will be able to maintain good service on the main routes, but will have to compromise regarding roads with less traffic.

Matti Vehviläinen, Director  
Transport and Infrastructure



**The Transport Strategy for Southwestern Finland clarifies the traffic preconditions needed for successful business and urban areas in Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta regions.**



# Our starting point is safe and smoothly flowing traffic

In terms of transport matters, our operating area is Southwestern Finland (the regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta). We are responsible for 8,000 km of public roads and related infrastructure. It is our job to handle maintenance of the road network and the safety and smooth flow of traffic while considering environmental issues. We also ensure the availability of basic public transport services, are responsible for ferry traffic throughout the country and serve as the authority for permit issues in our sector.

The construction of large highways generally receives the most attention, but the majority of road management involves road maintenance, improvement and smaller road projects. We use 90% of our road management funding for maintenance. The remainder is directed to regional investments, planning and traffic management. First and foremost, we ensure road usability on a day-to-day basis by means of summer and winter maintenance measures. Secondly, we maintain the condition of the roads by repaving them, repairing bridges and improving road structures.

- **Funding for basic road management:**  
EUR 62 million
- **Funding for public transport:**  
EUR 4.3 million
- **Funding for ferry traffic:**  
EUR 55 million

## Traffic safety is a priority

A special characteristic of our region is the large number of rebuilt areas, which present challenges in terms of traffic safety. When compared with other areas, our region has a higher accident rate in relation to the population and traffic volumes. In particular, there are a lot of accidents in rebuilt areas and head-on collisions on the main roads. Head-on collisions could best be prevented by median barriers. However, we can improve traffic safety mainly through small measures. These include arrangements to enhance safety in pedestrian and bicycle lanes and at interchanges and reducing speed limits. We build about 10-15 km of pedestrian and bicycle lanes each year and these projects are primarily carried out in co-operation with the municipalities. Daily maintenance measures also help to ensure traffic safety.

## Investment in key road management areas and customer satisfaction

Road management area (situation in 2011)	Sufficiency of funding (in the view of the authority)	Change in investment (monetary / qualitative)	Satisfaction - citizens	Satisfaction - professional drivers
Preventing slipperiness and snow ploughing on main roads				
Preventing slipperiness and snow ploughing on other roads				
Condition of pavement on main roads				
Condition of pavement on other roads				
Condition of gravel roads				
Condition of bridges			*	*
Amount of investments in relation to needs			*	*
Frequency of public transport and timetables			*	*
Ferry traffic services (incl. frequency, vessels, timetables)			*	*

### Road user satisfaction survey (result on a scale of 1-5)

- Satisfied (result of at least 3.60)
- Quite satisfied (result of 3.0 – 3.59)
- Dissatisfied (result of less than 3.0)

**Sufficiency of funding** describes the authority's view of the sufficiency of the available funding for the area in question.

**The direction of the arrow** shows the change in investment. Based on the evaluation, a change in investment does not appear as increased customer satisfaction.

\*) The result is based on the authority's evaluation or customer feedback (research data not available).

## Maintenance secures daily journeys and transports

Maintenance refers to the winter upkeep of roads, paving, bridge repairs, gravel road upkeep, mowing roadsides, road markings and maintaining fixtures and fittings, such as public transport stops and traffic signs. Rather than implementing road maintenance ourselves, we select a provider on the open market through competitive bidding. We comply with national guidelines for road maintenance so that our activities are consistent throughout Finland. In comparison to the rest of the country, the special road maintenance challenges in our region include rapid weather changes in the coastal area and problems resulting from sudden changes in the soil, which increase the average cost of structural maintenance.

The main roads are a focus of maintenance so that we can serve as many road users as possible. Simultaneously, we safeguard the smooth traffic flow for business and industry and public transport. On other roads, we select maintenance measures based on local needs. The scarcity of funding often means a reduction in the level of maintenance on low-volume roads. However, we ensure that daily journeys and transports are possible on all roads.

- Length of public road network: 8,000 km, including 6,000 km of paved roads and 2,000 km of gravel roads
- 700 km of pedestrian and bicycle lanes
- 1,800 bridges
- Finland has 41 road ferries, 18 of which are in the Turku Archipelago
- 16 commuter ferry locations in the Archipelago Sea and Gulf of Finland (18 in the summer)
- 98% of traffic travels on paved roads

## Road 8 is a spearhead project

The present scarcity of investment funding means that only the most urgent projects can be carried out. Parliament makes a separate decision on the funding of major investments. The Transport Strategy for Southwestern Finland outlines the common view of actors in our region regarding the prioritisation of transport measures. The tight budget of the state economy presents challenges in terms of implementing the strategy. Our number one priority is improvement of the Turku-Pori section of Highway 8, and its realisation will require a funding decision.



## The environmental aspect is a consideration in all activities

We monitor the impacts of road management on the environment and take environmental aspects into consideration when planning our activities and building and maintaining roads. For us, the most important environmental issues in road management are safeguarding the quality of groundwater, traffic noise prevention, consideration of the cultural environment and a pleasant transport environment. However, the scarcity of funding means that noise barriers and groundwater protection measures can mainly be implemented in conjunction with large construction projects.

## Sustainable traffic solutions in public transport

We support public transport in urban areas and we purchase public transport for non-profitable routes. We also grant permits for public transport. In relative terms, the funding for public transport has decreased in recent years, making it impossible to grant the full level of assistance. We consider the development of urban public transport to be a particularly important issue, and will continue to finance regional tickets in the future. Within the scope of funding, we ensure basic public transport services in rural areas.

## ELY Centre provides transport permits and assistance

We grant transport-related permits and assistance, such as freight transport permits, connection permits and subsidies for private road maintenance. We also decide upon the number of taxis allowed to operate in the regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta and subsequently grant taxi permits within that framework. The number of taxis is determined on the basis of the demand for taxi services. Our website includes information about the permits required and applying for permits and assistance in addition to all the necessary application forms.

## Responsibility for road ferry and commuter ferry traffic throughout the country

Ferry traffic comprises road ferry and commuter ferry transport and the maintenance of docks and the associated equipment. Road ferries are part of the road network. Commuter ferry traffic is based on the Island Development Act, which ensures that people can reside and do business on the islands. As with the road network, ferry traffic also requires maintenance and development in order to keep services at the present level. At this time, the most important development need involves creating functional markets when producing transport services, renewing ageing ferries and the available funding. Matters related to ferry traffic throughout Finland are the sole responsibility of the ELY Centre for Southwest Finland.





# A vibrant region develops in a healthy environment

*The Southwestern Finland Environmental Programme 2010-2013 focuses on climate change, a sustainable municipal structure and issues related to energy production. The programme provides every concerned party with suitable measures to improve the state of the environment.*

The good condition of waters and the sea area is an important goal for us, and a lot of good work is being done in the provinces in order to achieve this goal. The state of waters is particularly affected by emissions from agriculture, communities and rural areas. The ELY Centre organises and co-ordinates co-operation relating to the treatment of water resources and promotes project work. We also have our own projects to enhance water protection work. The ELY Centre is responsible for monitoring the state of waters.

The ELY Centre promotes regional planning of the water supply and sewerage and its implementation in order to meet the basic needs of society and the targets set for improving the state of waters. State assistance is available for the sewer system and for other water services projects that are related to water protection. In the near future, we will be implementing several projects in the areas of water services and the restoration of waters.

It is important to prepare for the impacts of climate change and extreme phenomena. Precipitation will increase as the climate heats up, especially in the winter. This will cause a rise in the surfaces of waterways, increase flows and make floods more likely. Flood risks have to be taken into consideration in land use planning, construction and water protection. Major flood risk sites have just been assessed, and the most significant of these are located along the Kokemäki River. Planning for flood risk management is beginning.

A key factor in controlling climate change is comprehensive consideration of the energy economy in land use planning. Of course, saving energy and energy efficiency in construction and housing



are also important issues. The ELY Centre steers municipal land use, focusing on the implementation of national land use goals, especially a cohesive municipal structure in urban areas, land use that emphasises climate targets and the consolidation of transport.

Finland has committed itself to arresting the impoverishment of natural diversity by 2020. It is important for the Southwestern Finland to achieve a sufficient and quality protection network to ensure natural diversity. We implement protection in many ways, the latest of which is the METSO Forest Diversity Programme for Southern Finland, which provides landowners with the opportunity for voluntary protection.

Supervision work as required by different laws and the related steering and counselling also contribute to promoting the realisation of all these targets and the legality of activities that have an impact on the environment.

Risto Timonen, Director  
Environment and Natural Resources



**Environmental issues in our region are governed by the Southwestern Finland Environmental Programme 2010-2013, which was compiled in broad co-operation.**

## Sustainable use of the environment is a challenge

Our operating area in terms of environmental matters is Southwestern Finland (the regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta). The region's natural diversity, rich cultural environment and long coastline and archipelago have a great deal of national value. On the other hand, we have developing urban areas, important industrial production, intensive agriculture and a busy sea and land transport system. These conditions present many challenges in terms of sustainable use and the protection of the environment.

We produce environmental information for the use of citizens and partners, particularly through online services. We use separately funded projects to accelerate the implementation of many targets.

**A cohesive municipal structure  
reduces emissions.**

### Land use planning to create the future operating and residential environment

Our goal is to use land use planning and construction steering to promote the formation of a good housing environment and sustainable community development. We steer municipal land use and construction in annual land use development discussions. National land use guidelines are the guiding principle of these activities.

The building stock in Southwestern Finland is multifaceted and valuable in a historical sense, as is the entire cultural landscape in our region. The focus of cultural environment protection and management lies in more extensive milieu entities. We encourage municipalities to draw up cultural environment programmes in their areas.



#### In 2010

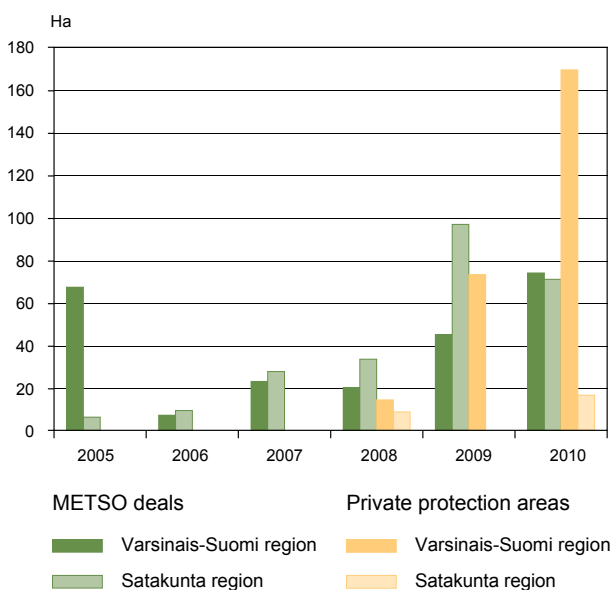
- 233 inspections of production facilities and plants with an environmental permit were performed
- 110 negotiations involving land use authorities were held
- 3,100 water samples were taken
- 44,000 inhabitants were connected to the water services system

## Protection of natural diversity ensures ecological balance

The nature in Southwestern Finland is diverse, with a large number of plant and animal species. The most important nature values are in the archipelagos, oak groves, coastal bird waters and raised bogs. Although typical of our region, heritage landscapes are becoming less common. Overall planning of coastal areas combines the utilisation of natural resources, the protection of natural diversity, water protection, recreational use and landscape management.

Approximately 90-95% of protection programmes have been implemented in our region. The main focus is voluntary protection of forest nature values, which is carried out by means of financing from the METSO Forest Diversity Programme for Southern Finland. We ensure the preservation of natural diversity by tending to protection sites and traditional biotopes. We co-operate on nature conservation work with the authorities responsible for forestry and agriculture and with local inhabitants, landowners and non-governmental organisations.

Forest area protected in the METSO programme in 2005 - 2010 (the regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta)



*Landowners' interest in forest protection has increased. The METSO programme offers a flexible financing instrument for implementation.*



## Water is a natural resource and ensuring its sustainable use is a public service task

We promote the sustainable use of water resources and water services as well as flood protection. The goal is for water resource users to be satisfied with the usability and condition of waters and water services. The reformed water services legislation sets new requirements for municipal and property-specific wastewater treatment.

We strive to increase co-operation within municipal water services by producing general plans and promoting the concentration of wastewater treatment in large and efficient units. We promote the implementation of property-specific wastewater treatment and the establishment of water co-operatives in sparsely populated areas. We plan restoration and management measures for waters to serve different water user groups. The aim is to return the waters as closely as possible to their original state.

Our goal is to assess and decrease flood risks as well as to prevent and reduce the damage caused by floods. We work closely with other actors in the region.



## The good state of the waters is a key factor in regional appeal

Our goal is for the state of the waters to be on at least a good level in 2015. We have worked with the regional water resources management planning co-operation groups to draw up a programme of measures for surface and groundwaters. The majority of the proposed measures are already being implemented, but additional measures have to be focused on areas with a heavy burden.

We monitor the state of the waters in sea and inland water areas and we produce information about water quality and changes in it. The algae monitoring carried out every summer is of particular benefit to summer cottage dwellers and boaters. Industry, aquaculture and residential centres place a burden on water areas and these parties monitor the impact of this burden on the state of waters by means of so-called obligatory monitoring.

At the Baltic Sea Action Summit in February 2010, the Finnish Government committed itself to intensifying its measures to improve the state of the Archipelago Sea by 2020. We are prepared to put special effort into agricultural water protection and reducing the nutrient load caused by wastewater.



Reducing the environmental burden improves the state of the waters.

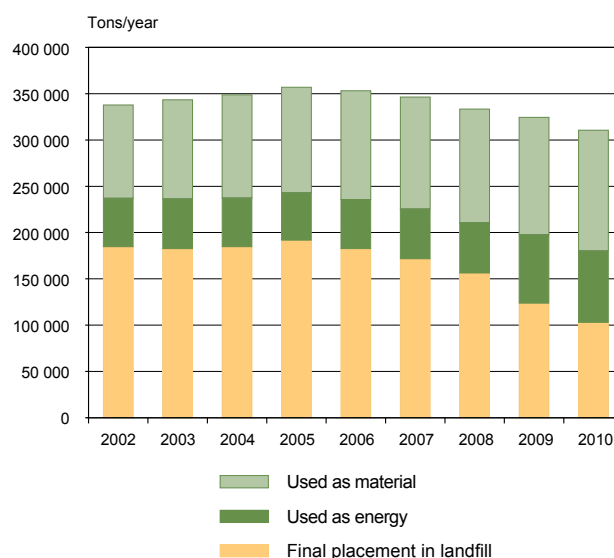
## Use of natural resources and industrial emissions must be kept under control

Our region is home to a significant share of Finnish business requiring environmental permits. Monitoring of the resulting load and the terms of the environmental permits is one of our most important means of promoting environmental protection. Waste management in our region is governed by the Waste Plan 2020 for Southern and Western Finland, and we promote implementation of the targets presented in that plan.

Our goal is to reduce the nutrient load resulting from the aquaculture that is concentrated in the Southwestern Finland sea area. The methods of achieving this include site selection management, development of feed, feeding and sludge removal methods, and development of natural feed ponds.

We strive to reduce the health and environmental risks caused by polluted land areas and to prevent pollution. We also ensure that suspected polluted sites located in groundwater areas are investigated and that those found to be polluted are cleaned.

Municipal waste produced and its utilisation in 2002 - 2010 (the regions of Varsinais-Suomi and Satakunta)



*In accordance with targets, the amount of municipal waste placed in landfills has decreased in recent years.*

- Foresight
- Development
- Training
- Advisory services
- Steering
- Funding
- Planning
- Inspection
- Supports
- Monitoring

## We serve you with expertise and co-operation

### E

Development of entrepreneurship and business and industry

Innovations and business financing operations

Rural business and industry, rural development and energy issues

Functioning of labour markets, availability of labour force and employment

Construction of educational institutes, libraries and sports venues

Development of vocational education and competence, library services, sports and physical training services, youth services and art and culture

Immigration and integration

### L

Road maintenance

Road projects

Transport system management

Transport permits

Public transport

Traffic safety

Island traffic

### Y

Development of a sustainable municipal structure and steering of land use

Sustainable use and management of water resources

Monitoring the state of the environment

Production of environmental information, advisory services and information service

Environmental protection

- Protection of air, waters and soil
- Protection of the cultural environment and landscape
- Protection of natural diversity

Prevention of environmental damage

# Contacts

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**The ELY Centre is open on weekdays 8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

The ELY Centre for Southwest Finland's three areas of responsibility have different locations.

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